

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A rubber tread for a tire, the rubber tread comprising:

    a plurality of tread pattern elements comprising lateral faces, one contact face for contact with a roadway during travel of the tire, and at least one ridge defined by a limit of the surface of contact of the contact face with the roadway;

    a plurality of cutouts being defined by the lateral faces;

    wherein each of the tread pattern elements is formed with at least one base mix and at least one covering mix;

    wherein at least one of the lateral faces is covered at least in part with the covering mix having a height  $H_r$  at least equal to 30% of a height  $H$  of the at least one lateral face before the tire is used,

    wherein the at least one base mix extends to the contact face ~~from the time either before the new tire is used until, at the latest, or~~ after wear is up to 10% of the height  $H_r$  of the covering mix, and

    wherein said covering mix comprises more than 30 phr of a butyl rubber and a plasticiser of an unsaturated  $C_{12}$ - $C_{22}$  fatty acid ester type.

2. (Previously Presented) The tread according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of the fatty acid ester type is between 5 and 80 phr.

3. (Previously Presented) The tread according to claim 1, wherein the fatty acid ester type is a glycerol trioleate.

4. (Previously Presented) The tread according to Claim 3, wherein the amount of glycerol trioleate is between 15 and 30 phr.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The tread according to Claim 1, wherein the covering mix comprises from 50 to 100 phr of butyl rubber.

7. (Previously Presented) The tread according to claim 1, wherein the base mix is devoid of butyl rubber.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) A tire comprising a tread according to claim 1.

10. (Previously Presented) The tread according to claim 1, wherein the cutouts are in the form of grooves or incisions.

11. (Currently Amended) The tread according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the fatty acid ester type is between 10 and 50 phr.